# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:206
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
PROTECTION OF BIRDS FROM FLU
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to protect the birds of sanctuaries from flu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons/sources for spread of flu; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to tackle recent avian influenza found in the Chinese migratory birds?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All Chief Wildlife Wardens have been directed to increase level of surveillance in the major sites for migratory birds. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been provided information on important birds sanctuaries of the country and assured them of full co-operation of the Ministry of Environment& Forests and State Forest Departments in protecting domestic poultry and migratory and resident birds.

(c) The exact cause of spread of bird flu is not known. However, experts opinion suggests that it may be due to unhygienic poultry practices, transportation and sale of live poultry, poultry products, trade in wild birds and normal movements of wild migratory birds, particularly ducks.

(d) A dialogue has been initiated with Department of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture and Avian Experts of the country about the potential risks and readiness in India on the issue. Chief Wildlife Wardens of all States and Union Territories have been directed to be cautious and report immediately.